

Appl. No. 10/648,853
Amdt. dated November 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2005

Atty. Ref. 81790.0294
Customer No. 26021

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 8-21 is noted and appreciated. Claims 2-7 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is rewritten to include all limitations of dependent claim 2. Claim 2 is canceled in view of this amendment. Claims 3, 6 and 7 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and claims 4 and 5 are amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 1 and 3-21 are now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102


Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Ikehashi et al. (US 6,642,757). This rejection is moot in view of the amendment of claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 2.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: November 3, 2005

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